

AMIAA News

Publication of the
Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652
January, 1987, Vol. XXI, No. 1
Telephone: (201) 265-2607, 2608

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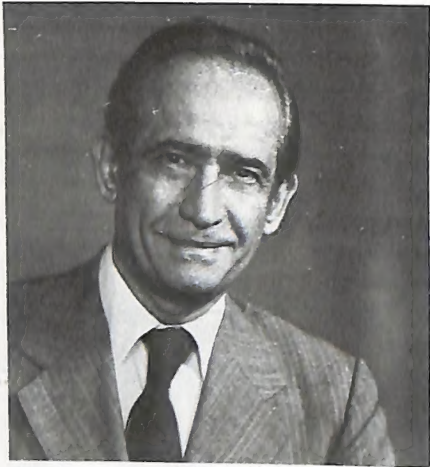
1987-1997



A group of Sunday school children of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Tehran

LORD, GIVE US THE GRACE TO BE BRAVE

By G. H. Chopourian



G. H. Chopourian

This writer lives close to New York City. As a matter of fact, he is just seven miles west of the Great Hudson River which divides New Jersey from New York City where the Great New York Times is published. Great also are the Scandals, Crimes and corruptions that the New York Times exposes. The perpetrators are caught, tried and convicted by juries by the dozen. One refrain by almost all of them is: "I don't know; I didn't do it."

As all of us know, there is Scandal in the highest places. The White House, the National Security Advisor, and a host of others are in an "I don't know" syndrome, attempting to squirm out of an unwholesome episode of secret dealings. Our Government and governmental operations are in limbo because there is an attempt to hide the truth. Our foreign policy is limping, too. We are crippled! Why? Let us give some thought to this question: "Can you make a guess as to what is the most vulnerable human ailment?" We contend it is the lack of grace to accept faults, errors, shortcomings and sins committed. As a result we all as human beings become cowardly.

The consequences of this human ailment is dangerous to individual and corporate life. Consider for a moment you have stolen something or told a lie which can ruin your standing in the community if exposed. You also are aware one person knows about it. How do you fare in sleep under such circumstances? You lose

sleep, you sweat, you live in fear and the combined guilt plays havoc with you the 'pretender.' And the prognosis—the future course of the disease? Nervous breakdown, depression, yes, in some cases suicide.

While the situation is true in the case of an individual, the same holds for a community or nation. There are communities and nations which are dubbed as untrustworthy, unreliable, deceptive with the resulting consequence of impoverishment.

Only an abundant bestowal of Grace from God would enable us weak human beings to accept error and bravely face the consequences. Are you able, when faced with exposure of falsification, error, sin committed to accept like a brave soldier accepts to shed his blood for his country? Then, you are a blessed creature—you have God's unique Grace!

The old year did come to an end on December 31 and the new year began on January 1. Throughout the 365 past

days, all of us did some "hiding" of truth by commission or omission. As the Scriptures state, "All have sinned and come short" of the Grace of God. We have acted possibly in cowardice to protect honor, avoid punishment, prevent loss. We lacked the Grace to accept!

Acceptance requires "guts." Acceptance calls for bravery and courage.

Acceptance demands self-sacrifice. But above all, acceptance implies confession which, so well observed by thinkers, "is good for the soul."

"Confess your faults one to another that ye may be healed" advises Scripture (James 5:16). Then again, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9).

There is healing and cleansing in acknowledging our misguided ways.

Let us face the New Year bravely and become new creatures of truth and goodness.

THE AMAA: A PERSPECTIVE OF REMINISCENCE

By Charles DeMirjian

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the text of the introduction to the 67th Annual Meeting Banquet of the AMAA (October 18, 1986) by Charles DeMirjian, Master of Ceremonies.

They say that with age, one earns the right to reminisce. I don't know at what age, but having reached a rather ripe 61, I think I qualify.

While reviewing my AMAA files, I was drawn to reflect on the quality of our past leaders.

I recalled one of my first board meetings in which I became suddenly cognizant of the caliber of those around me. Here in one room at one time was a confluence of key people—the very shakers and shapers of both the Association and the Union.

So impressed was I that I recorded the names. The date was Nov. 7, 1959. The place, our tiny headquarters on 33rd St.



Charles DeMirjian

Reminisce with me as I name, alphabetically, many of those present: Judge Nazaret Barsumian, Martin Hatch, Samuel Hekemian, Sr., Dr. Jacob Heki-

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THE CONTINUING MINISTRY OF THE STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN FOUNDATION

The Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Dr. G.H. Chopourian, is happy and honored to report that the Ministry of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, a major Armenian charitable foundation affiliated with the AMAA, continues its operations even as the Armenian community becomes more diverse and dispersed. The Trustees of the Foundation, Mrs. Joseph (Joyce Philibosian) Stein, Chairman, Mrs. Louise (Philibosian) Danelian, both daughters of the late Stephen Philibosian, the founder; Mr. Richard Aijian; Albert Momjian, Esq.; and Nazar Y. Daghljan are diligently committed to personal involvement.

The worthy ministries supported by this Foundation continue to be specifically in the realm of education.

As Haigazian College, which opened a Branch in East Beirut, serves the Armenian community by adapting to the

changing patterns of life in Beirut, so do Foundation funds flow to help meet the new challenges the college faces.

Higher education has become rare and precious in Beirut and Haigazian is satisfying that privilege. Mrs. Joyce Stein, is serving her sixth year as a Trustee of that institution. Children Incorporated and the Stephen Philibosian Foundation in their joint efforts have, in a quarter century, given over One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars in Scholarships abroad. Conversely, the Stephen Philibosian Endowment Fund, administered by the AMAA Board, maintains a substantial scholarship program for Armenians and Armenian-Americans.

"We are justly proud of our Trustees," Mrs. Stein stated. "They have dedicated time and talent to Armenian projects and organizations." Mr. Nazar Y. Daghljan, as President of the Armenian Missionary Association for over three terms, assumes



Mrs. Joyce Stein, Chairman of SPF Board of Trustees

his leadership role adeptly. Albert Momjian Esquire, and Mrs. Stein will have served over two and one decade respectively as Board members of the Armenian

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The Inspirational Corner

BECAUSE GOD LOVES ME

(I Corinthians 13: 4-8)

By Dick Dickinson

Because God loves me He is slow to lose patience with me.

Because God loves me He takes the circumstances of my life and uses them in a constructive way for my growth.

Because God loves me He does not treat me as an object to be possessed and manipulated.

Because God loves me He has no need to impress me with how great and powerful He is because HE IS GOD nor does He belittle me as His child in order to show me how important He is.

Because God loves me He is for me. He wants to see me mature and develop in His love.

Because God loves me He does not send down His wrath on every little mistake I make of which there are many.

Because God loves me, He does not keep score of all my sins and then beat me over the head with them whenever He gets the chance.

Because God loves me He is deeply grieved when I do not walk in the ways that please Him because He sees this as evidence that I don't trust Him and love Him as I should.

Because God loves me He rejoices when I experience His power and strength and stand up under the pressures of life for His Name's sake.

Because God loves me He keeps on working patiently with me even when I feel like giving up and can't see why He doesn't give up on me too.

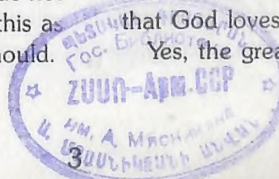
Because God loves me He keeps on trusting me when at times I don't even trust myself.

Because God loves me He never says there is no hope for you, rather, He patiently works with me, loves me and disciplines me in such a way that it is hard for me to understand the depth of His concern for me.

Because God loves me He never forsakes me even though many of my friends might.

Because God loves me He stands with me when I have reached the rock bottom of despair, when I see the real me and compare that with His righteousness, holiness, beauty and love. It is at a moment like this that I can really believe that God loves me.

Yes, the greatest of all gifts is God's perfect love!!!



4/2-88

AMAA GRANTS \$155,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

We are pleased to report to our members and friends that the AMAA, surpassing its scholarship provision of last year, granted a total of \$155,000 in scholarship assistance to Armenian university students for the current 1986-87 school year. The provision for last year was \$137,000.

As in previous years, the allocations were made upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dr. John G. Keuhnelian of Tenafly, N.J. Out of 248 requests for scholarship aid, 187 applications were found qualified for Committee consideration, and 159 full-time college and university students were awarded scholarship grants and/or interest-free loans ranging from \$250 to \$3,000. Determination of the awards were based on financial need, academic standing and accomplishment, future leadership potential and good character references.

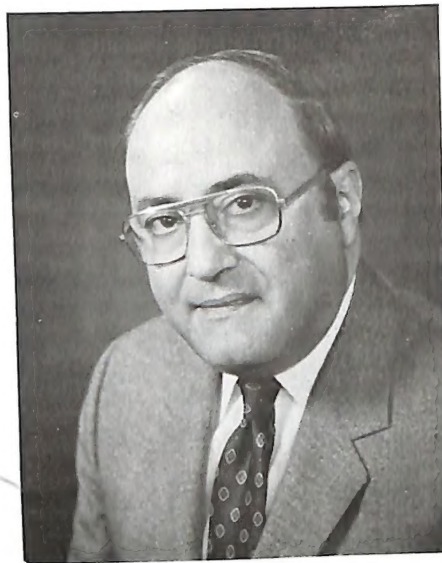
This year's scholarship allocations were provided from the income of the following trust and endowment funds of the Association: Nerses & Arpine Aynilian Trust Fund (1 student); Augustine & Vergine Badeer Fund (5); Vahe & Emelia Churukian Fund (1); Arthur Dadian Endowment Fund (2); Dr. Haig Darpinian & Mrs. Berjounie Timourian Endowment Fund (3); Armine Ejdaharian Bilezikjian Endowment Fund (3); Puzant & Angele Gulesserian Trust Fund (1); Anne Halford Memorial Scholarship Fund (2); Angele Bedrossian Hancock Fund (4); Hekemian Family Trust Fund (46); Dr. Jacob Hekimian Medical Loan fund (6); Edward & Lucy Janjigian Endowment Fund (1); Jeditian Educational Fund (5); John G. Kazanjian Trust Fund (2); Dr. James Mouradian Medical Scholarship Fund (3); Raymond & Marie Nahigian Fund (3); George & Alice Philibosian Family Fund (1); Hrag Salibian Trust Fund (3); Altoon & Sara Saprichian Fund (2); Dicran & Flora Sarkisian Endowment Fund (7); Stephen Philibosian Endowment Fund (66); Telfeyan Evangelical Fund (7); and a special contribution from Attorney Hoover Garabedian of Worcester, MA (1).

The amount of AMAA scholarship as-

stance given to students preparing for Christian ministry was \$23,725. This sum was provided from the income of the above-mentioned endowment funds as well as the following funds designated for theological education: Richard Z. Babikian Memorial Endowment Fund; The Rev. A.A. Bedikian Theological Scholarship Fund; Hagop M. & Esther Dohanian Family Fund; The Rev. & Mrs. D.Y. Koundakjian/H. & S. Berejiklian Fund; Paul and Arousiag Iskiyan Theological Scholarship Fund; Avedis & Parantzem Kezlarian Fund; Karekin Kaboolian Fund; Prof. Lootfi Levonian Fund; Mr. & Mrs. M.H. Muradian Memorial Fund; Ezras & Nellie Tellalian Fund; H. & C. Apelian Memorial Fund; Eugene Clemence Fund; The Rev. S.K. & G.T. Emurian Fund; Leon & Matilda Giridlian Fund; Arsen Gulian Fund; R. & O. Mankanian Missionary Fund; M. & M. Mugrdichian Fund; James Puzant Shamlian Memorial Fund; J. & H. Sharabjian Fund; other AMAA Theological Funds; and special donations given by Mrs. Dikranouhi Nedurian and D.G. Kazarian.

The beneficiaries of this year's allocations for theological education included the following students who are being trained in different seminaries and theological institutions in the United States and abroad; Samuel Agulian, Fuller Theological Seminary; Avo Boynerian, Princeton Theological Seminary; Gregory Haroutunian, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Joan Hensleit, Mennonite Brethren Bible Seminary; Arda Hovnanian, Harvard Divinity School; David Maghakian, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; John Mokosian, Andover Newton Theological Seminary; Nairy Ohanian, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary; Daniel Sarian, Dallas Theological Seminary; Hilda Shahinian, Princeton Theological Seminary; and three students in care of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East attending the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon.

According to Dr. Keuhnelian, the large amount of time and effort spent in the ad-



Dr. John G. Keuhnelian, Chairman of AMAA Scholarship Committee

ministration of the scholarship program is counterbalanced by the quality of many applicants. He says, "It is most satisfying to be involved in a program which helps with the higher education of needy yet deserving students with such excellent academic record. If we can be of some assistance to them, then we feel that our time and efforts have not been wasted."

We are indeed delighted that through our Scholarship Program we are able to continue to help the needy and deserving students of our community. This most beneficent work is made possible through caring AMAA benefactors and members who have established funds and continue to augment their scholarship funds by regular contributions. Through the medium of the AMAA NEWS, we extend to them the heartfelt gratitude of their beneficiaries and the sincere appreciation of the Board of Directors and the Scholarship Committee of the AMAA.

Scholarship application forms for the 1987-88 school year will be released as of January 1, 1987. Requests for the forms must be made in writing and by the applicants themselves. Completed application forms must reach the AMAA Headquarters before May 15 in order to qualify for Committee consideration.

THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF TEHRAN

The AMAA Headquarters has recently received encouraging news from Teheran, Iran. In a letter to the Executive Director, the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Teheran, the Rev. Tateos Michaelian, reported on a number of noteworthy activities that include a Youth Camp, a Family Conference, celebration of the 10th anniversary of the local District Committee of the AMAA, and other Church and youth related functions.

Rev. Tateos Michaelian states, "Our church here owes much to the Armenian

Missionary Association of America. We always appreciate your services rendered to our nation in many countries. That is the reason we want to continue to have an AMAA Branch here." He further adds, "Please convey our deepest appreciation to all benefactors who have helped us by their sacrificial donations. . . Let them know that they will be rewarded a hundredfold by the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Church."

Rev. Michaelian also states that he has terminated his work with the local Synod Council will have been terminated on Oc-

tober 31 and that the Elders of the Armenian Church have invited him to work as the full-time pastor of the congregation.

Despite the difficulties created by the country's war conditions, our brethren in Teheran continue their witness undauntedly.

The AMAA is committed to supporting their Christian life and work as an important ministry to our people in that troubled region.

We invite the prayers and support of our members and friends for this important outreach.



The youth of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Tehran at one of their recent retreats.

AMAA: A PERSPECTIVE (cont'd from page 2)

mian, Dr. Dicran Kassouny, Garabed Keuhnelian, John Keyishian, Harry Kuljian, Avak Mehagian, Professor Kegham Mississian, Stephen Philibosian and the Rev. Edward Tovmassian. A veritable roll call of who's who among Armenian Evangelicals at that time.

The tie that bound them was dedication to missions. The tie that binds them now is that each has moved up to a better life while continuing to inspire us.

There's a risk, however, to reminiscing. We presume the past to be the good old days.

But look among you. Be suddenly cognizant of who's who today. Consider too that we have long since awakened to the strength and intelligence of our women. Not least, consider the progeny of those past leaders. Listen to a litany

of names of another generation who follow the faith of their fathers in serving the AMAA: Sam Hekemian, Jr., Bob Hekemian, Dr. John Keuhnelian, Joyce Philibosian Stein, and The Rev. Ron Tovmassian—most of whom are here tonight. The fruit doesn't fall from the tree.

Certainly we acknowledge the courageous vision of our pioneers. Lord Byron said the best prophet of the future is the past. Powered by the same spirit, far greater strides are being made through the scope and efficacy of today's Association by today's leaders.

Thus the perspective of reminiscence of the good old days resolves in a simple fact. Tonight, whatever else we may call it, this gathering is a celebration of better days now and yet to come. All to the glory of God.

STEPHEN PHILIBOSIAN FOUNDATION (cont'd from page 3)

Missionary Association of America. In Mrs. Danelian, as an advisory member of the Merdianian Armenian Evangelical School of North Hollywood, has seen that school, which has now moved into new premises, grow in numbers.

Mrs. Stein also serves on the Board of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center, an AMAA supported Ministry in Hollywood, which, in the name of Christ, responds to the deep acute social needs of Armenian newcomers in that area. Further, she is a Trustee of the Armenian Assembly which represents the microcosm of Armenians in America.

"As the years pass," Mrs. Stein commented faithfully, "we do not forget the largesse of our Founder and the vision he had to share his manifold blessings with others. We strive to fulfill his vision."

URGENT HELP NEEDED TO SAVE SHAHE'S EYE

The telex message from Beirut, Lebanon was to the point: "An 8-year old boy, called Shahe, had an accident and seriously damaged his left eye. Surgery, following the accident, was not successful. Doctors have recommended that Shahe undergo surgery in the United States as his best chance to save his eye. Shahe's family is poor. The Jinishian Memorial Program has undertaken the travel expenses of Shahe and his mother. They will leave for Boston Tomorrow. Please help save Shahe's eye."

In early October, Shahe and his mother arrived in the United States. An AMAA Board member and the pastor of one of our churches helped in making the necessary arrangements for Shahe's medical examination and tests in Boston and in Chicago. The AMAA undertook local U.S. travelling and lodging expenses for the boy and his mother.

Doctors indicated that Shahe's

eye could be saved by a series of surgeries. He has had two surgeries in Chicago already. It is estimated that the cost of surgery to save this child's eye will range from \$12,500 to \$25,000.

In the past, you, our caring members and friends, helped in saving the lives of three young men with serious surgeries - Serop (kidney transplant), Vicken (artificial legs), and Nayiri (eye surgery). With your help and prayerful support, Shahe will be salvaged too!

THIS IS AN APPEAL TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, CHURCHES AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO COME TO SHAHE'S HELP.

Won't you please pray for Shahe and send a contribution towards the account for his surgery. Please make your checks to:

AMAA - for Shahe's surgery
and post to 140 Forest Avenue,
Paramus, N.J. 07652.

Clip and Mail today to:
AMAA, Inc., 140 Forest Ave.
Paramus, N.J. 07652

YES, I want to help Shahe regain his sight. Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ towards the account for his surgery.

Name _____

Address _____

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

We have copies available of material on Wills and Bequests, Deferred Giving and Life Income Trusts. Those interested in receiving a copy of one or more of the following brochures please mark the appropriate box or boxes and return to:

**The Armenian Missionary Assoc.
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652**

- ☐ How to Write a WILL that Works
- ☐ What Difference does a WILL Make?
- ☐ Why All the Bother About WILLS?
- ☐ What Happens if There is No WILL?
- ☐ 37 Things People "Know About WILLS that Aren't Really So"
- ☐ Giving through Your WILL
- ☐ The Gift You Can Take Back
- ☐ How to Give More by Giving Securities
- ☐ Twelve Ideas from the WILLS of 12 Famous People
- ☐ Living Trusts Can Be Giving Trusts
- ☐ Giving Through Revocable Living Trusts
- ☐ Giving Through Life Income Plans
- ☐ Giving Real Estate
- ☐ There's Will-Wisdom in a Testamentary Trust
- ☐ What Every Giver Should Know About Taxes
- ☐ Has Your WILL 'Expired'?

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